

# Böhler

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Bereaved Rawagede bloodbath are coming to the Netherlands for the lawsuit**

**Amsterdam, 20 June 2011** – on 20 June 2011, pleadings in the lawsuit of the Indonesian widows of Rawagede against The Netherlands will take place. The widows claim financial compensation from the Netherlands for wrongfully executing their husbands on 9 December 1947 in Rawagede (Java, Indonesia).

Ms. Wanti Binti Sariman, born 12 May 1925 (Karawang), will visit the Netherlands for the lawsuit. She stayed at home on the day of the killings, 9 December 1947. Her husband, uncle and gardener were executed. She found her husband at the site where sixty people were executed in rows of twenty. At the time, she was nine months pregnant of her second child. To be able to cope with the new situation, she started selling jamu (medicinal herbs) and clothing. Also she had to sell her sawah (ricefield).

Mr. Tasmin will also come to The Netherlands for the lawsuit. He is Sa'ih bin Sakam's son. Sa'ih was the only survivor of the Rawagede bloodbath of December 1947. At the age of 88, he passed away on May 7<sup>th</sup> of this year.

**Background** - On 9 December 1947 Dutch troops attacked the village of Rawagede on Java in Indonesia. Hundreds of male villagers were executed, along with prisoners and refugees. A UN Security Council fact-finding committee in a 1948 report condemned the actions of the Dutch Army to be "deliberate and ruthless". Criminal proceedings against the soldiers responsible for the Rawagede bloodbath have never been instituted. The Netherlands has never apologized or paid compensation to the surviving family members of the murdered villagers. This is the first time that Indonesian surviving family members issue a summons against The Netherlands for crimes committed during the decolonisation wars in Indonesia from 1945 until 1949.

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